

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims:

- 1-2. (Canceled).
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the directory service further includes user objects.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the directory service further includes computer objects.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the directory service further includes printer objects.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the directory service further includes a directory service component with a descriptive parameter.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein backing up includes storing object settings, links to directory service objects, and security information regarding directory service objects.
8. (Canceled).
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein various levels of security privileges can be delegated.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the levels of security privileges that can be delegated include the ability to configure an entire policy object or the ability to configure only one or a plurality of administrative templates contained in a policy object.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein policy data associated with a policy object is stored in a database.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the database where policy data is stored is the registry.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for selective restoring of policy objects associated with a directory service of a computer system, comprising:
backing up a plurality of the policy objects associated with the directory service of the computer system;
detecting a problem with a selected one of the plurality of policy objects; and
restoring the selected one of the plurality of policy objects without restoring others of the plurality of policy objects.

15. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein the detected problem comprises ~~deletion and/or~~ corruption of the selected one of the plurality of policy objects.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein detecting a problem with a selected one of the plurality of policy objects comprises detecting problems with a plurality of policy objects and restoring the selected one comprises restoring the plurality of policy objects with detected problems.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein restoring the selected one of the plurality of policy objects includes replicating the selected one of the plurality of policy objects across domain boundaries of the computer system.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 further comprising:
analyzing the effect a particular setting of one of the policy objects will have on a particular target represented as a directory service object before the particular setting is implemented in the directory service.

19. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein a security privilege of the computer system is required to ~~restore and/or~~ effect a particular setting of the policy objects and wherein the method further comprises:

delegating the security privilege to selected users for selected objects in the directory service.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 14 wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up.

21. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 14 wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a parent ~~and/or child~~ domain of a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up.

22. (Previously Presented) A system for selective restoring of policy objects associated with a directory service of a computer system, comprising:

means for backing up a plurality of the policy objects associated with the directory service of the computer system;

means for detecting a problem with a selected one of the plurality of policy objects;

and

means for restoring the selected one of the plurality of policy objects without restoring others of the plurality of policy objects.

23. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein the detected problem comprises deletion of the selected one of the plurality of policy objects.

24. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein a security privilege of the computer system is required to restore a particular setting of the policy objects and wherein the method further comprises:

delegating the security privilege to selected users for selected objects in the directory service.

25. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein restoring includes restoring the selected one of the plurality of objects to a child domain of a domain of the computer system from which it was backed up.